

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending.

By this Amendment, Claims 1-16 are amended to address formalities and antecedent basis issues therein. Moreover, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate a feature from allowable dependent Claim 4, Claim 2 is amended to recite a feature described in paragraph [0071], new dependent Claim 17 recites the features from original base Claim 1, the allowable subject matter recited by original dependent Claims 4, 9 or 13, and the features shown in Figure 9; new independent Claim 18 recites the features from original base Claim 1 and the allowable subject matter recited by original dependent Claim 7; and new independent Claim 19 recites the features from original base Claim 1 and the allowable subject matter recited by original dependent Claim 13.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

In the Drawings

Enclosed herein is a Replacement Sheet of Formal Drawing Figure 9 which has been amended to correctly position the lead line identifying the feature represented by reference character 70.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 4 and 7-16, although objected to for depending from a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 1), would be in condition for allowance if rewritten or amended to be in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard, a feature from allowable Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1, thereby placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below, new independent Claim 18 recites the features from original base Claim 1 and the allowable subject matter recited by original dependent Claim 7, thereby placing Claim 17 in condition for allowance, and new independent Claim 19 recites the features from original base Claim 1 and the allowable subject matter recited by original dependent Claim 13, thereby placing Claim 18 in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-213361 Umatsuka et al. (U Matsuka) in view of United States Patent Number 6,039,009 to Hirose. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites an engine-driven generator including, among other features, a duct member and an intake box that are connected by a seal that allows relative displacement therebetween.

Applicants respectfully submit that Umatsuka and Hirose do not teach or suggest such a feature.

Specifically, Applicants note that Umatsuka fails to teach or suggest a seal connecting the duct 19, 20 and the intake box 35.

Furthermore, Hirose teaches a seal 18 connecting the duct 7 and the frame 17 of the fan cover 16 (see Figure 7), but like Umatsuka, fails to teach or suggest a seal

connecting the duct 7 and an intake box. As such, Hirose does not cure or otherwise address the above-described deficiency of Umatsuka.

As such, the Applicants respectfully submit the Umatsuka and Hirose fail to teach or suggest the feature of a seal connecting the duct and intake box as is recited by Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the Umatsuka and Hirose, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 1 is not rendered obvious in view of the teachings of the Umatsuka and Hirose and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-17 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claims 1-19, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348.00547.**

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX LLP



Murat Ozgu
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372

1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: (202) 857-6000

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Enclosure: Replacement Fig. 9